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[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Plague on the steamship J. W. Taylor at New York Quarantine.

QUARANTINE, LONG ISLAND, *November 29, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to present herewith report on the cases of bubonic plague occurring on the British steamship *J. W. Taylor* from Santos for this port. The steamer *Taylor*, loaded with coffee in sacks, sailed from Santos on October 24, 1899. Previous to sailing the steward of the vessel was under treatment in one of the civil hospitals in Santos, but reported for duty prior to sailing. On November 1 he was taken sick with violent headache, nausea, and great prostration. It was suspected that he was suffering with plague, and he was isolated so far as possible and nursed by the captain, his wife, and the cook of the ship. He developed buboes and died on the 7th. His effects were thrown overboard and the room which he occupied closed for the remainder of the voyage. On the day of his death the captain and cook were both taken ill and were subsequently nursed by the wife of the captain. The point of entrance of the infection in both cases was well marked, consisting in each case of a small ulcerated point upon the foot, which sloughed and extended to the size of about a 10-cent piece.

In both cases, starting from this point of infection, the superficial lymphatic glands were involved and buboes made their appearance in the groin, involving again the superficial lymphatics in the neighborhood of the femoral opening. This was their condition upon arrival at the New York quarantine. The patients were up and about, but Dr. L'Hommedieu on seeing them and with the history of the death on board, at once recognized the character of the disease, and the 2 patients, together with their nurse, were removed to Swinburne Island. Material, in the nature of pus, from these buboes was taken and submitted to examination by Dr. Fitzpatrick, the bacteriologist of the

quarantine station and Dr. Parke, the bacteriologist of the New York board of health. For several days, the results of their examination were negative, but they have since, working independently, succeeded in isolating the organism of bubonic plague and proved its virulence on mice, guinea pigs, and other animals. The remainder of the crew were removed from the ship and sent for observation to Hoffman Island, where they still are. Up to this time, there have been no developments of any disease among them, and the usual period of incubation having long since passed, I am of the opinion, that no further apprehension need be felt about them.

Immediately upon the arrival of the ship in quarantine, and after the removal of the patients, the living apartments, cabin, and fore-castle of the ship were most thoroughly disinfected by sulphur and corrosive sublimate solution, and all bedding, clothing, and textile fabrics, without exception, were subjected to the action of steam at a temperature of 230° F. for fifteen minutes, a perfectly safe and efficient process of disinfection.

The treatment of the ship itself has been as follows: The cargo has been discharged in quarantine upon lighters. As soon as sufficient cargo had been removed from under the hatches, a sulphur fumigation was practiced, and this has been repeated every night, in this way insuring that the cargo discharged on any given day has been subjected to a thorough surface disinfection during the night preceding. The sacks have been so stowed upon the lighters as to admit abundant circulation of air and exposure to wind and sunlight during the day, and in addition have, during every night, been subjected to a temperature very near the freezing point, as there has been a heavy frost every night since the unloading was commenced. In addition to this thorough aëration, disinfection, and low temperature, it is the determination of Dr. Doty to keep these lighters in quarantine for a period of at least eight days before discharging them.

Throughout the entire process, the ship has been carefully guarded and no communication is permitted with it by unauthorized parties. The stevedores engaged in the unloading are kept in quarantine and are every night sent to Hoffman Island and brought back to their work in the morning. A careful watch has also been kept for rats, especially those dead; but 1 dead rat has been found and bacteriological investigation so far would seem to indicate that he was a victim to the sulphur fumigation and not to plague. I should mention here that the hawsers securing the lighters to the ship are also guarded by large funnels of galvanized iron to prevent the passage of rats from the ship to the lighters.

So soon as the cargo is all discharged, the treatment of the ship itself will be entered into. She will again be thoroughly cleaned, as to living apartments, by sulphur and corrosive sublimate solution. Her holds will be subjected to the most thorough and perfect mechanical cleansing; all trash and rubbish burned, and repeated fumigations with sulphur and washings with corrosive sublimate solutions practiced. A careful search will be instituted for dead rats, and those found will be gathered with all possible precaution and burned.

In conclusion, I would beg to assure you that no possible precaution has been neglected, that every step of the various operations detailed to you has received the careful attention and scrutiny of the officers of this station, and that they, as well as the employees concerned, are fully alive to the danger of the situation and most thoroughly in earnest in preventing any spread of the malady. I firmly believe that the sit-

uation has been robbed of all of its dangers and that so far as the ship *J. W. Taylor* is concerned, and any others of a similar nature from plague infected ports, no danger to the public health need be apprehended. It affords me great pleasure to be able to make this statement and to bear testimony to the courtesy which I have received at the hands of Dr. Doty and his assistants.

Respectfully,

H. D. GEDDINGS,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Statement of smallpox in Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 27, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that since my letter of the 11th instant no additional cases of smallpox have been discovered. The 2 houses which were in quarantine have been released. No patients have been discharged. There are, therefore, 5 cases of smallpox, all confined in the hospital.

Respectfully,

WM. C. WOODWARD, M. D.,
Health Officer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 29, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that 2 patients were to-day discharged from the smallpox hospital. No new cases having been reported, there are, therefore, 3 cases of smallpox in this District, all confined to said hospital.

Respectfully,

WM. C. WOODWARD, M. D.,
Health Officer.

Smallpox in the Forty-eighth Regiment United States Volunteers, Angel Island, Cal.

SAN FRANCISCO QUARANTINE STATION,
Angel Island, Cal., November 23, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival of the Forty-eighth Regiment United States Volunteers, colored, at the detention camp on the 18th instant on account of smallpox.

It appears that this regiment was in camp at Fort Thomas, Ky., for some time previous to coming to the Presidio, where, evidently, the disease was contracted. On November 18, 3 cases were sent to the general hospital by the regimental surgeons as having "German measles." Fortunately, these cases were detected on their arrival at the hospital and immediately isolated. The regiment was then ordered in quarantine at the detention camp, and held to await further developments. At the request of the chief surgeon, Colonel Forwood, and the medical inspector, Dr. Owen, I have visited the camp and examined the cases in which there was a difference of opinion as to the nature of the malady.

I found 3 well marked cases of smallpox.

The regiment has been revaccinated. The infection is probably due to a case of mild smallpox at Fort Thomas which had not been detected. This case has now fully recovered.

To-day the regimental surgeon reports 6 additional cases, making 12 in all which have appeared so far.

The regiment will be detained and vaccinated and revaccinated until thoroughly immunized.

Respectfully,

J. J. KINYOUN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.